10th August 1965]

Protected Water-supply Scheme

* 99 *Q*.—SRI M. RAJAH IYER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have sanctioned Protected Water-supply Scheme to Ramanathapuram Municipality; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (*a*) & (*b*) The proposal to sanction a Water-supply Scheme for Ramanathapuram Municipality and certain wayside villages is under examination of Government.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER: May I know, Sir, whether, even if one of the wayside villagers should refuse to participate in the scheme, the scheme would be put through?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: That is what is being examined, Sir.

Protected water-supply tanks

* 100 *Q*.—SRI M. RAJAH IYER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of protected water-supply tanks constructed in the Mandapam Panchayat Union villages in the East Ramanathapuram district under the National Water-supply and Sanitation (Rural) Scheme; and

(*b*) the arrangements made for their maintenance?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (*a*) Four.

(*b*) The Panchayats, which maintain the tanks, have trained personnel for the operation of the pumpsets, etc., and for their proper upkeep.

M. RAJAH IYER: Sir, has it come to the notice of the Government that the Panchayats have not taken over the maintenance of the overhead tanks. Will the Government expedite the handing over of these to the Panchayats?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: Except that overhead tank at Ramanathapuram, the other three have been handed over to the Panchayats?

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether there is any proposal with the Government to give top priority to the villagers who ask for drinking water-supply by giving subsidy or loan to those Panchayats?